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*National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences · National Academy of Engineering · Institute of Medicine*

OFFICE OF NEWS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

To: [redacted] ORD CIA

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Date: 1/24/95

Total Pages: 5

Subject:

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[redacted] the study on Cryptology Technology is in its beginning stages, and I was unable to determine who is funding it from our database. Please give me a call (I did not get your number) sometime tomorrow and I will be able to tell you whether it is being funded by the Agency. In the meantime, I hope the following information is useful to you.

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Army or DoD

*archived
or file*

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES — AN INTRODUCTION —

Established by an Act of Congress signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is a private, non-profit organization designated as an official adviser to the federal government on science and technology matters. The Academy is also a self-perpetuating society of scientists dedicated to "the furtherance of science and its use for human welfare." Election to the 1,710-member Academy is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive.

The NAS and its affiliated organizations — the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council — conduct studies on the full agenda of scientific, technological, and medical issues before the nation. AIDS, global warming, nuclear weapons proliferation, industrial competitiveness, and science education — these are a few of the many controversial and complicated topics examined by the Academy complex.

Major areas of concern include:

Agriculture	Environment
Health	National Security
Education	Social and Community Issues
Natural Sciences	International Affairs
Social Sciences	Transportation
Engineering	Technology and Manufacturing
Health of the Scientific Enterprise	Energy
	Space Exploration

The Academy has no laboratories. Its studies are conducted by committees of experts from throughout the country who volunteer their time. Committee members may include scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, corporate executives, or other specialists. Typically a committee, working with Research Council or IOM staff members, will collect all the relevant scientific and technical literature on an issue. The committee then evaluates and distills this information into a report geared to policy-makers or the general public. More than 6,400 experts, serving on nearly 645 committees, produce some 250 reports each year.

Reports prepared by Academy-complex committees represent the consensus of leading experts from diverse disciplines. The committees conduct their studies in a setting removed from the normal pressures of the political arena. This makes Academy studies particularly valuable to policy makers who must make decisions based on conflicting information on everything from the reliability of DNA forensics to the long-term health consequences of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans.

Because the Academy is a private, independent, non-partisan organization, it often serves as an important neutral setting for roundtable discussions, conferences, symposia and other meetings attended by representatives from government, industry, academia, and other sectors.

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Today, 131 years after its founding, the charge to the Academy's 50 charter members is carried out by four organizations — the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. Descriptions of each follow.

National Academy of Sciences

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), as of April 1994, has 1,710 active members, 82 emeritus members, and 300 foreign associates; at present, up to 60 members may be elected each year. Comprising all of the life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and engineering, the membership of the NAS is divided into sections according to scientific discipline.

By authority of its congressional charter, the membership of the National Academy of Sciences serves as the corporate parent of all four organizations. In practice, this membership responsibility is, in turn, vested in a 17-person Council that includes the five elected officers of the NAS.

National Academy of Engineering

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) was established December 5, 1964, under the congressional charter granted to the National Academy of Sciences.

The Articles of Organization set forth the following objectives and purposes: (1) to provide a means of assessing the constantly changing needs of the nation and the technical resources that can and should be applied to them, to sponsor programs aimed at meeting these needs, and to encourage such engineering research as may be advisable in the national interest; (2) to explore means for promoting cooperation in engineering in the United States and abroad, with a view to securing concentration on problems significant to society and encouraging research and development aimed at solving them; (3) to advise the Congress and the executive branch of government, whenever called upon by any department or agency thereof, on matters of national importance pertinent to engineering; (4) to cooperate with the National Academy of Sciences on matters involving both science and engineering; (5) to serve the nation in other respects in connection with significant problems in engineering and technology; and (6) to recognize outstanding contributions to the nation by leading engineers.

As of February 1994, the membership of the NAE stood at 1,732 members and 148 foreign associates. New members are elected on the basis of identifiable contributions or accomplishments in one or both of the following categories: (1) important contributions to engineering theory or practice, including significant contributions to the literature of engineering, and (2) demonstration of unusual accomplishments in the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology. The Council of the National Academy of Engineering consists of the NAE officers, the president of the National Academy of Sciences, and 12 members of the NAE who are elected by the membership.

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Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine (IOM), established in 1970, conducts studies of policy issues related to health and medicine, prepares position statements on these issues, cooperates with the major scientific and professional societies in the field, identifies qualified individuals to serve on study groups in other organizational units, and disseminates information to the public and the relevant professions.

According to its charter, IOM membership "shall consist of not more than 600 persons selected from the fields of health and medicine — clinical medicine, medical education, the medical sciences, nursing, dentistry, and other health professions — and from other fields related to health and medicine such as the natural, social, and behavioral sciences; law; administration; government service; and engineering. No more than three-quarters of the members shall be drawn from the fields of health and medicine." Membership is based upon "distinguished professional achievement in a field relevant to medicine and health; demonstrated and continued involvement with the issues of health care, prevention of disease, education in the health professions, or biomedical research; skills and resources likely to contribute to the Institute's tasks of assessing current knowledge, carrying out studies, and considering policy issues; and willingness to play an active role in the Institute activities."

As of July 1994, the active membership stands at 493, with 38 foreign associates. Members remain on the active roll until they attain the age of 66. They must renew each five years their commitment to service in the Institute's affairs. They may choose at any time to be transferred to the roster of senior members, which also includes those aged 66 and older. The senior members, which number 536, may not vote, hold office, or serve as members of the Council and are not counted in the authorized total of membership. Although the Institute of Medicine is not part of the formal structure of the National Research Council, its program is subject to approval by the Research Council Governing Board, and its reports are subject to the Report Review Committee of the Research Council.

National Research Council

The National Research Council was established by the National Academy of Sciences in 1916 to broaden the Academy's ability to advise the government on matters of science and technology. It serves as the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

To enable it to respond effectively to both the disciplinary concerns of the research community and the complex interdisciplinary problems facing American society, the Research Council is organized into ten major units:

Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems
Commission on Geosciences, Environment, and Resources
Commission on Life Sciences

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Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Applications
Office of International Affairs
Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel
Board on Agriculture
Mathematical Sciences Education Board
Transportation Research Board
Policy Division
Coordinating Council for Education

The Governing Board, which sets policy for and provides oversight of the National Research Council, consists of the president and vice president of the National Academy of Sciences and four other members of the Council of the NAS; the president of the NAE and four members of the Council of the NAE; and the president of the IOM and one other member of the Council of the IOM.

Each prospective National Research Council project is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Governing Board for approval. The Executive Committee consists of the president of the NAS, who serves as chairman, and two other members of the NAS Council; the president of the NAE, who serves as vice-chairman, and one other member of the NAE Council; and the president of the IOM.

Selected new studies and publications of the Research Council are announced in *NewsReport*, a magazine issued 3 times each year.

Talk to



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